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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Annual Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

FOR 1926.

Stourbridge :

MARK & MOODY, LTD., PRINTERS & STATIONERS.

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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

ALDERMAN LEONARD J. COOK, J.P., M.R.I.P.H.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN CHARLES S. HALL, J.P.

SANITARY COMMITTEE :

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, *Chairman.*

Alderman C. S. Hall

Councillor H. S. Walker

Councillor Mrs. Francis

„ H. F. Williams

„ J. Harrington

„ Joseph Wright

„ W. Harris

„ S. Wright, J.P.

Medical Officer of Health :

GEOFFREY DUDLEY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector :

ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.



THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1926.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,
 I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1926, being my second Annual Report.
 In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this Report is curtailed, and the details are those which the Ministry suggest should be included.

General Statistics.

Area of the District	...	...	...	1920 acres.
Population according to figures supplied after the Census in 1921	...	Crude 18023 ;	Corrected 18016	
Population, figures supplied by Registrar-General (1924)	...	...	...	18830
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	4251
Number of inhabited houses (1924)	...	...	...	4540
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	4608 approx.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1926)	...	...	...	5059 approx.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£80,000
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£307

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Births —Legitimate	146	142	288
Illegitimate	8	9	17
		Total	305
Birth Rate	...	...	16.19
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	17.8
Deaths—Males	...	...	98
Females	...	...	117
		Total	215
Death Rate	...	...	11.41
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.6

Six women died in consequence of childbirth, three being from Sepsis and three from other causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1926		1925	
	M	F	M	F
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—
Influenza	2	2	4	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	5	10	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	—	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	15	14	12
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	1	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.... ..	11	10	5	11
Heart Disease	13	28	28	16
Arterio-Sclerosis	2	1	—	1
Bronchitis	5	7	6	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	6	15	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	—	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis	—	3	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases and Pregnancy and Parturition	—	3	—	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	8	1	3	3
Suicide	1	1	1	—
Other Deaths from Violence	4	—	1	4
Other Defined Diseases	16	27	22	15
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	98	117	120	110

Infantile Deaths.

Total Deaths of Infants under one year, 19 (Males 14, Females 5). One was an illegitimate infant.

Infantile Death Rates per 1000 births : 62.29.

Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales, 70 per 1000 births.

The causes of deaths were as follows :—Premature Birth 3, Cerebral Haemorrhage 2, Marasmus 2, Congenital Heart Disease 2, Bronchitis 2, and one each from the following causes :—Tuberculous Meningitis, Icterus, Broncho-pneumonia, Debility, Atelectasis, Imperforate Anus, Asphyxia, and Gastro Enteritis.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 11 Deaths. Influenza 4, Diarrhoea 1, Rheumatic Fever 1, Enteric Fever 1, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 1, Encephalitis Lethargica 1.

The Zymotic Death Rate is .58.

The one death from Measles was a child 3 years of age, who died in November.

The case of Whooping Cough was a child aged 3, in May, and the case of Diarrhoea (Gastro Enteritis) occurred in June, being an infant two months old.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Tuberculosis	...	Hayley Green and Knightwick, both situated outside the Borough and under the control of the County Council.
Maternity	...	None.
Children	...	None.
Fever	...	Stourbridge and Halesowen Infectious Diseases Hospital.
Smallpox	...	Ditto.
Other	...	Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, Staffs., supported by this and surrounding districts. Birmingham Queen's, General and Children's Hospitals, and Dudley (Guest) Hospital are easily accessible.

Sanatorium treatment of Tuberculosis is under the control of the County Council.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Hayley Green, as well as a Smallpox Hospital, are provided by the Local Authorities of the Borough of Stourbridge, Urban District Council of Lye and Wollescote, and the Urban District Council of Halesowen.

The Smallpox Hospital is kept in readiness for any case which might occur.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers in the district.

The Corbett General Hospital is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and is supported by this and the adjoining districts. There are 32 beds.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For Infectious Cases a motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance, which is kept at the Fire Station, and a Motor Ambulance provided by the British Red Cross and kept at Mr. Weaver's Garage, High Street.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee. The Town Council own the premises occupied by the Centre.

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 5 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10.

Dr. Lloyd Francis attends at the Centre weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

Ladies of the Committee assist at the Welfare Centre in helping to weigh the babies and giving tea to the mothers.

Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics, under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council, are also held at the Centre. Mr. Naughton Dunn, of Birmingham, attends the Orthopaedic Clinic once every month.

Health Visitor's Report.

Notifications of Births received from the County Medical Officer
January 1st to December 31st, 1926 :—

Males	...	...	...	165
Females	...	...	...	140
Still Births	...	...	...	10
				—
				315
				—
Number of Primary visits paid to homes	...	...	...	276
Re-visits to children under one year of age	...	...	...	2131
Re-visits to children over one year of age	...	...	...	2360

Attendances at Infant Consultation Centre :—

Number of Children in attendance at the Centre during				
1926	...	...	...	431
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	3520

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

There is no alteration in the Water Supply. The following are the results of analyses made by the County Analyst. :—

				Oct. 1925.	Aug. 1926.
				(Grains per gallon)	
Solids in suspension	...	...	...	none.	none.
Solids in solution dried at 100 °C.	...	...	...	37.8	33.6
Ditto appearance	...	...	...	white	white
Ditto after ignition	...	...	...	32.2	29.4
Behaviour of solids on ignition	...	...	...	No visible change.	No visible change.
Phosphates	...	...	...	none.	none
Chlorine calculated as common salt	...	...	...	8.1	7.8
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	.0004	.0005
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	.001	.002
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours	...	...	...	none	.009
Nitrogen in nitrates	...	...	...	.8	.5
Deposit	...	...	...	none	none
Smell	...	...	...	none	none
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	none detected	none detected
Hardness : Permanent	...	...	...	11.2°	10.5°
Temporary	...	...	...	10.8°	9.5°
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	22°	20°

Rivers and Streams.

On 2nd June, 1926, a Meeting of representatives of Local Authorities in this locality was held at Stourbridge, and was called by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the purpose of considering a report made on the pollution of the River Stour.

There were no alterations respecting Closet accommodation and Scavenging.

Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, Etc.

The following are the Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with the date of adoption :—

Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	1891
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890	...	...	26 Nov. 1901
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	...	...	April, 1910
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, Part III.	...	...	Dec. 1901

Byelaws :—

New Streets and Buildings	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Nuisances	...	...	20th Oct., 1911
Offensive Trades	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Slaughterhouses	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements and Cleansing of Earthclosets and Cesspools	...	...	10th Jan., 1917

The Public Health Staff.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector. Also, since 6th December, 1926, an Additional Sanitary Inspector. One half of the salaries of these Officers is contributed by Exchequer grants.

The Sanitary Inspector has the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and other Foods. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Shops Acts. The Additional Sanitary Inspector has the Royal Sanitary Institute certificate as Sanitary Inspector.

There is also a lady Clerk.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organisation, employs three Nurses, whose services are available for residents. A portion of the District, viz., Old Swinford, had a Parochial Nurse until the end of the year when the District Nursing Association undertook the necessary nursing.

There is no provision for professional nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases treated at home.

Midwives.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. At the end of the year there were four Midwives practising in the district. The Local Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre had a Midwife until August 1926.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector follows mine and gives a detailed account of the inspection of the district.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement

Number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspections of houses and premises	...	...	523
Inspections under Housing and Town Planning Act	...	...	18
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	36
Visits <i>re</i> Tuberculosis	...	...	22
Re-Inspections and Re-visits	...	...	1265
Slaughter-houses	...	...	1069
Cowsheds	...	...	70
Workshops	...	...	38
Vans	...	...	32
Bakehouses	...	...	39
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	22
Food Stores	...	...	88
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	8
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	16
Rag Dealers	...	...	3
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	257
Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	226
Statutory Notices served	...	...	98
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	69

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives particulars relating to Houses let in Lodgings, which came under observation during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives details of Inspections of Food.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Chickenpox was again prevalent, especially in October and November, —131 cases being notified. There were 11 cases of Diphtheria as against 14 in 1925. One case ended fatally. Scarlet Fever cases decreased from 30 in 1925 to 17 in 1926. There was one case of Enteric Fever, which ended fatally. Pneumonia cases decreased from 55 in 1925 to 40 in 1926. Two cases of Encephalitis Lethargica were notified and there was one death from the disease. There were five cases of Puerperal Fever in 1926, as against 3 in 1925. One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified. No case of Smallpox occurred.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.

New Regulations for notification of these conditions came into force on 1st October 1926. Notification has now to be carried out for both of these conditions. Puerperal Pyrexia means any febrile condition (other than Puerperal Fever) occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.4° F. (38°C.) or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours or has recurred during that period.

In addition to notification, adequate facilities for examination and treatment of patients suffering from these conditions is provided by the County Council. Patients requiring Hospital treatment are treated at the Women's Hospital, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

These new regulations have been introduced with the hope that the mortality among women following childbirth will be reduced.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1926.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No. of Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upward.			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	5	1	—	—	—	11	9	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	2	6	3	—	3	—	1	—	17	12	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	5	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	8	7	11	7	40	—	11
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	4	11	—	—
Chicken Pox	3	6	10	7	11	90	2	2	—	—	—	—	131	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1
Totals ...	3	7	12	10	16	99	7	8	20	11	15	11	219	—	17

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
NOTIFIED	TREATED					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
Jan. 23	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—
Feb. 6	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—
Mar. 22	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—
April 10	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—
June 19	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—
Dec. 12	Home	—	Yes	—	—	—

The Infants' Department of Wollaston St. James' School was closed for three weeks in November on account of an outbreak of Chickenpox.

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE. PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5 years ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 „ ...	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
10—15 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 „ ...	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
20—25 „ ...	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35 „ ...	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45 „ ...	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	1
45—55 „ ...	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	10	9	2	6	6	5	1	1

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient. There was no occasion for the taking of any action or proceedings for refusal to notify.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.**Public Health Act, 1925—Sec. 62.**

No action was necessary.

Mortuary.

The bodies of eight persons were taken to the Mortuary during the year, viz. :—Three (babies), the cause of death being two by misadventure and one at birth, also one each as follows :—Suicide ; Killed on Railway ; Manslaughter ; Motor Accident ; Accidental Death.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEOFFREY DUDLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) ... 72

(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts :—

i. By Local Authorities ... 28

ii. By other Bodies or Persons ... 44

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection :—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 72

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... 18

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 82

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 38

3.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 ...

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners ... 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ... 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 50

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	24
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

C.—Proceedings under the Housing Act 1925 :—

(1) Number of Representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	0



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	4	2	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	73	4	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	77	6	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	3	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	6	6	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	15	12	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1926.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a Report of the work done in my Department during the year 1926, being my Twenty-sixth Annual Report.

Complaints.

124 Complaints were received relating to various insanitary conditions as compared with 97 in the previous year.

Inspection of District.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 3249. These were as follows:—General inspection of houses and premises, 523; Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 18; Infectious Diseases, 36; Tuberculosis Cases 22; re-inspection and re-visits, 1265; Slaughter-houses, 1069; Dairies and Cowsheds, 70; Workshops, 38; Vans, 32; Bakehouses, 39; Premises where Offensive Trades carried on, 22; Food Stores, 88; Houses Let in Lodgings, 8; Common Lodging Houses, 16; Rag Dealers, 3.

In making these inspections, 1427 sanitary defects, nuisances or contraventions of your Bye-laws were found. There were 2312 defects not remedied at the end of 1925, these, together with 1427 defects met during the year 1926, make a total of 3739 insanitary conditions. 1594 defects were remedied during the year, thus leaving 2145 insanitary conditions unabated.

The drains at 12 houses were tested with the Smoke Machine.

Notices.

257 Preliminary intimation Notices were sent during the year, most of them being in the form of a letter. They were as follows :—General defects of houses, 51 notices relating to 106 houses. Defective rain-water spouting and cisterns, 15 notices, 33 houses. Insufficient and defective sanitary conveniences, 15 notices, 38 houses. Drain defects, 9 notices, 15 houses. Obstructed drains, 21 notices, 52 houses. Defective ashpits and ashbins, 5 notices, 22 houses. Cleansing Rooms after Tuberculosis, 1 notice. Also the following Notices :—Petroleum Acts, 37 ; Accumulations and deposits, 7 ; Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 22 ; Unregistered Milksellers, 3 ; Overcrowding, 4 ; Fowlkeeping, 1 ; Outworkers Lists, 8 ; Workshops and Factories, 2 ; Stagnant Pool, 1 ; Milk and Dairies Orders, 32 ; Exchanging Sweets for Rags, 3 ; Reminders of existence of Closing Orders, 3 ; Miscellaneous, 4 ; Reminders of Expiration of Slaughterhouse Licences, 11 ; House Let in Lodgings, 1 ; Pigkeeping, 1.

Ten matters were referred to the Borough Surveyor and 6 cases of waste of water reported to the Engineer of the Water Board.

226 Preliminary Notices had been complied with at the end of the year, work in connection with 23 was in progress at the end of the year. Nothing has been done in respect of 8 notices.

The Statutory Notices served, were as follows :—

Public Health Act, 1875.

Sec. 94 (Abatement of Nuisances) ...	...	...	...	52
Sec. 36 (and Sec. 11, P.H.A. 1890) Provision of Ashbins	...	...	...	25
Sec. 41 (Drain repairs) ...	...	...	...	2
Sec. 94 and Sec. 35, P.H.A. 1907 ...	...	...	...	1
Sec. 49 (Removal of Manure) ...	...	...	...	3

Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.

Sec. 39 (3) (Additional W.C.'s) ...	...	...	...	3
Sec. 49 (Provision of Sinks) ...	...	...	...	4

Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847.

Sec. 74 (Defective Rain-water Spouting)	5
---	-----	-----	-----	---

Housing Act, 1925.

Sec. 11 (2) (Closing Order)	1
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

96

Also a Notice under Sec. 5 of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, and one under Sec. 11 (5) of the Housing Act, 1925, rescinding a Closing Order.

At the end of the year 69 Notices had been complied with, and work in respect of 21 was in progress at the end of the year.

Total number of letters written, 851.

Prosecutions.

Nine cases were taken before the Magistrates during the year and were as follows :—

	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Premises.</i>	<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Results.</i>
1	30th Apl.	1, Unwin Passage	For not ceasing to occupy a house subject to a Closing Order.	Order to quit within eight weeks.
2	30th Apl.	2, Unwin Passage	Ditto	Case adjourned until Council House was available. After several adjournments, Tenant took over occupation of a Council House.
3	30th Apl.	4, High St. ...	Premises in such a state	Orders made for work to be done within 28 days, and to pay costs. (Houses eventually demolished).
4	"	5, " ...	as to be a nuisance ...	
5	"	6, " ...		
6	30th Apl.	39, Summer St. ...	Premises in such a state	Case adjourned for six weeks. 11th June, 1926, Orders made for work to be done within 56 days and to pay costs.
7	"	40, " ...	as to be a nuisance	
8	"	41, " ...		
9	"	42, " ...		

Offensive Trades.

No new business was commenced. The Trades carried on are Fish Frying, 10 ; Tripe Boiling, 6 ; Hide and Skin Dealer and Leather Dresser, one each.

Bakehouses.

There are 17 Bakehouses. One ceased being used during the year and a new one was opened. At one bakehouse alterations had been made which caused a sanitary convenience to be in direct communication. This was remedied.

Factory and Workshops Act.

There are 173 Workshops on the Register. During the year 5 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. Three relating to sanitary conveniences not kept in a clean condition. All these defects were remedied. One referring to a leaky roof ; the roof was repaired. The other referred to a workshop requiring limewashing. This workshop was given up soon afterwards.

Outworkers.

32 Lists were received containing names of 54 Outworkers, 31 of whom resided outside this district. One name was received from another district.

Common Lodging Houses.

The following are the returns of the number of lodgers at the three Common Lodging Houses. (The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied).

Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 and under 21.		Lodgers under 10 years of age.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
8551	1966	56	42	185	56	10856

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.

Number of houses inspected, 18.

One house was reported as unfit for human habitation. Your Sanitary Committee did not recommend a Closing Order being made as the Owner promised to repair the house. This was subsequently done.

Three houses, in respect of which Closing Orders had been made, became void.

Legal proceedings were successfully taken against the Owner of Nos. 4, 5 and 6, High Street, for Orders requiring repairs at these houses, under Sec. 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875. The Owner obtained vacant possession of Nos. 4 and 5, and demolished them. No. 6, which is a licensed house, is being rebuilt.

No. 22, Pedmore Road has been repaired and the Closing Order rescinded.

In May 1920, an Inquiry was held in respect of an Appeal against Closing Orders made by the Town Council relating to Nos. 13, 15 and 17, and Nos. 1 and 2, at rear of Nos. 13 and 15, Green Street. In May 1921, the Ministry of Health sent to the Owner an abridged Specification of necessary repairs. On 11th November, 1924, the Ministry was informed that the work had been completed, and were reminded of an undertaking given by the Owner to the effect that upon any one of the back-to-back houses becoming vacant it should be converted into a through house with the house at front or rear as the case may be. Up to the present none of the houses has become vacant.

Further progress has been made in the provision of Sculleries and W.C.'s, to houses in place of jointly used Wash-houses and W.C.'s. One new Scullery was erected during the year and work in connection with five others had commenced.

Plans and specifications were supplied to Owners for the provision of seven Sculleries with W.C.'s.

Slaughterhouses.

One new Licence to use premises as a Slaughterhouse was issued during the year. There are now 13 Slaughterhouses, all of which are annually licensed, four being subject to undertakings not to claim for compensation should the renewal of the licences be refused in the event of a Public Abattoir being provided.

1,069 Visits to Slaughterhouses were made during the year.

One butcher gives three months' notice of slaughtering on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in each week, all the others give the necessary notice as required by the Meat Regulations. There have been no flagrant cases of neglect or evasion.

Notices of Slaughter in respect of 801 Oxen, 1394 Pigs, 3,129 Sheep and 122 Calves, were received. The following were inspected :—654 oxen, 1,081 pigs, 1,950 sheep and 82 calves. 17 of the Pigs were slaughtered on private premises.

The percentage of inspections being : Oxen 81, Pigs 77, Sheep 62, and Calves 67, or a total of 71.

Meat and other Foods seized or surrendered and destroyed :—

The whole of a carcase and offals of a pig, also an ox head, both affected with Tuberculosis, were seized and condemned by Magistrates and destroyed.

The Meat surrendered was as follows :—

Tuberculosis : 1 cow, 1 pig (carcases and offals in both cases), 13 pigs' heads, 5 ox heads, 4 ox lungs, 1 ox liver, 1 ox spleen.

Distomum Hepaticum : 7 halves and 2 whole ox livers, 11 sheep livers.

Cirrhosis : 6 halves and 14 whole ox livers.

Abscess : 3 pigs' livers and 1 ox lungs.

Echinococcus : 2 ox livers.

And one each of the following : Pig (died) ; sheep (Emaciation) ; Sheep's lungs (Strongyli); ox liver (Tumour); sheep liver (*Distomum lanceolatum*); ox liver (*Angiomatosis*); sheep liver (*Cyst Tenuicollis*); also 12 lbs. prawns.

The total weight being, approximately, $21\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. compared with $7\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. in 1925.

The condemned meat, etc., was buried at the Refuse Tip.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 44 retailers of Milk, 18 Cowkeepers who are also retailers, and 1 wholesale and retail Dealer. There were 83 milking cows in the Borough at the end of the year.

At the Sanitary Committee Meeting in September, I presented a Report on the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, when instructions were given to obtain posters and circulars for distribution amongst the Dairymen in the Borough.

All the Cowsheds in the Borough were inspected by your Medical Officer of Health and myself during the last week in September, and notes made of the general condition of each.

Six samples of Milk were submitted to the County Analyst for bacteriological analysis under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and found to be free from Tubercule bacilli.

Several Cowkeepers were warned about the dirty condition of their animals.

The following defects at Cowsheds were found, all of which were afterwards remedied: An obstructed drain; Six accumulations of manure; Leaky manure pit; Milk kept in scullery; and a dirty cowshed.

One cow was reported by the Owner as suffering from Tuberculosis. It was removed to a knacker's yard and destroyed.

An application for registration as a Milk Seller was refused, owing to the unsatisfactory arrangements for washing cans and storing milk. The applicant removed to another district.

One retailer ceased business and four new retailers were registered, one of whom resides outside the Borough.

Disinfection.

59 Houses and approximately 472 articles of bedding and clothing were disinfected. The rooms at six houses, which had been occupied by patients who had suffered from Tuberculosis, were stripped of wall paper, sprayed and thoroughly disinfected.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

In September I reported to your Sanitary Committee on six houses let in lodgings in the Borough to which your present Byelaws did not apply, and suggested the adoption of Byelaws under Sec. 6 of the Housing Act, 1925.

Smoke Nuisances.

Several observations of emission of black smoke were made, but no case was reported to your Sanitary Committee.

At the October Meeting of your Sanitary Committee the following Resolution was passed :—

“Received from the Sanitary Inspector a Report as to Houses
“let in Lodgings, and consequent thereupon have appointed a
“Sub-Committee to consider the Town Council’s present Byelaws
“in conjunction with a new Model form of the Ministry of Health
“relating to the subject.”

Waterclosets.

Three privies, two being at one Chapel and one at another were converted into W.C.’s. Eleven additional W.C.’s were provided. Ten slop W.C.’s were converted into fresh water flushing W.C.’s.

The following are the numbers of conversions, additions and alterations since 1901.

W.C.’s in place of privies	...	...	...	1065
Additional W.C.’s provided	...	...	...	229
Slop W.C.’s Converted into fresh water W.C.’s	...	...	...	72

Shops Acts.

There are 517 shops on the Register.

Council Houses.

The number of houses in occupation at the end of the year was 274. 131 being at the Heath Estate and 143 at the Grange Estate.

The types are :—

			Heath.		Grange.
Parlour and four bedrooms	...	...	20	...	6
Non-Parlour and four bedrooms	...	...	—	...	1
Parlour and three bedrooms	...	...	81	...	43
Non-Parlour and three bedrooms	...	...	30	...	51
Two bedroom type	...	...	—	...	42

During the year the tenancies of seven houses at the Heath and eight at the Grange were changed.

15 Tenants were granted permission to sub-let rooms.

Petroleum Acts.

47 Petroleum Licences were issued, 26 to store Petrol only, 19 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 2 to store Carbide of Calcium only. 20 Notices of Storage of Petrol under the Regulations made under the Locomotives on Highways Acts, were received.

The amount of Petrol licensed to be kept being 29,133 gallons, and Carbide of Calcium 1,687 lbs.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.



